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## OBITUARY.

### PAUL DU CHAILLU.

A telegram from Saint Petersburg announces the death of the famous explorer in that city on the 30th of April.

Paul Belloni Du Chaillu was of French parentage, but authorities differ as to the place and the date of his birth. His own written statement must be accepted as final. He was born in Paris, July 31, 1835.

Du Chaillu's father was a trader on the west coast of Africa, and Paul's early years were passed at the Gaboon, where he was taught by the missionary Fathers. He showed great fondness for natural history, and made himself acquainted with the languages and the customs of the native tribes. He was still a very young man when he set out with a few native companions on an exploring expedition into Central Africa. From this journey, which lasted nearly four years, he returned with sixty previously-unknown species of birds, with specimens of the gorilla, and with a fund of strange information concerning the pygmy races of the great equatorial forest. His book, *Explorations and Adventures in Equatorial Africa*, published in 1861, was received with ridicule and incredulity; but, one by one, his observations and discoveries were confirmed by later travellers, and his reputation was established.

In 1863, he visited Africa again and spent two years in the explorations described in *A Journey to Ashango Land*, brought out in 1867. In 1871, Du Chaillu went to Sweden and Norway, where he lived and travelled for more than five years, studying the people and their institutions, and writing *The Land of the Midnight Sun*, published in 1881. This was followed in 1889 by *The Viking Age*, his most ambitious work.

His habits of keen observation and his lively descriptions made Du Chaillu a favourite with young readers, for whom he wrote with unwearied industry.

His buoyant and youthful temperament seemed to defy the lapse of time, and to those who bade him farewell two years ago, when he went to Russia, the news of his death comes as a thing not to be believed. His was a kindly and generous nature, steadfast and true in friendship, and without bitterness, even where he had been wronged.

Mr. Du Chaillu was a Corresponding Member of the American Geographical Society from 1860 to 1868, a Fellow from 1868 to 1892, and again a Corresponding Member for the years 1892-1903.